

EXHIBIT 7

DATE 2/9/07

HB 465

HOUSE BILL NO. 465

I am Stacy Whitmer from Glendive. Shortly after school started this past fall, my 5-yr old son was expelled from his preschool (which is licensed as a daycare) because he has not been vaccinated. Let me assure you that it was not what the owners and teachers of the preschool were in favor of, but rather what was dictated by the state. After two and ½ weeks of missed school, hours upon hours of research and phone calls and emails with individuals from several states across the country, and in excess of \$1000 later, my son was back in school after we obtained a medical exemption. Not only am I bitter that my son was denied going to school and that I had to spend that much time and money on something that my civil rights afford me, I have a 1 year old son at home as well. We hope like crazy that we do not have to repeat this process when it is time for him to attend preschool. That's my story.

It is obvious by the push for full-day kindergarten that education officials and lawmakers are proponents of increasing the level of education for our young people for the proclaimed purpose of leaving no child behind. In many communities, such as the one I live in, there are no preschool options other than those that are licensed as daycares. If my child is denied the right to attend pre-school based on his parent's religious tenants in regards to vaccination, then is my child being left behind? Is this what the state really wants?

I am not here to debate with you the theory of immunization. It is up to each of you as parents, lawmakers, and education officials to take the responsibility to educate yourself on this issue and not be a sheep in the herd. (For those of you who don't know, the government does refer to us as the herd) What I am here for is to remind you of Montana Constitution, Article 11 Section 4. It in part reads that neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas."

The handbook titled "Licensing Requirements for Child Day Care Centers, which I was told guides the department of Public Health and Human Services states that "A registrant or licensee shall not discriminate in child admissions on the basis of race, sex, religion, creed, color, national origin, or disability." Yet, this department expelled my child from a "daycare if you will" based on the fact that a religious exemption could not be allowed. There currently is no where in the law that says a religious exemption can be used in preschools and daycares, but there is also no where in the law that says a religious exemption cannot be used in preschools and daycares. As near as I can tell, and in conferring with attorney David Niss from the Public Health and Human Service interim committee, currently this issue is left to the interpretation of the Department of Health and Human Services, and I am sure we can all agree, that leaving it up to interpretation is not in anyone's best interest. I am simply asking that the law be defined in the manner by which it abides by the Montana and Federal constitution and abolishes any chance for misinterpretations that can arguably be considered a breach of civil rights.

I have here a quote from attorney Robert T. Moxley whom has made a career out of representing vaccine injured children and defending the rights of citizens to have autonomy in their own medical decision making. The quote is "It is the established principle of the Supreme Court religious freedom jurisprudence that any program that would deny religious exemptions but allows medical or any other individual exemptions would be strictly scrutinized."

In today's society it is shocking the number of parents who do not take parenting seriously. I do take parenting seriously. I am a mom. And as a mom it is not only my job, but my obligation to do that which **I** believe (not what someone else believes) is best for my children. And my state is trying its level best to force me to put my child into a pool of children in which it has been proven one out of every 166 will become autistic. I do not feel this is what is best for my child. My state is denying me the privilege I have as a mother to do what I believe is best for my child. In this case, I am not being allowed to make my own decision about my children's medical care. I want you to consider this. How would you feel if your state denied you your right to do what you believed was in the best medical interest of your child or grandchild? How would you feel if you were denied the constitutional right to practice your own personal religious or philosophical tenants and thus had to put your child or grandchild at risk. Please think about this and then see how comfortable you are with denying the passage of this bill!!